



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Names Appointment to Arizona Court of Appeals

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today appointed Kent Ernest Cattani to the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division I.

“Kent exemplifies my strong belief in judicial restraint and the judicial duty to strictly interpret and apply laws as written,” said Governor Brewer. “Throughout his nearly three-decade career, he has been highly-regarded both professionally and personally. Kent is a model of legal excellence, and will be a valuable addition to the Arizona Court of Appeals.”

Mr. Cattani has worked for the Arizona Attorney General’s Office since 1991. He recently was named Solicitor General and previously was Chief Counsel of the Criminal Appeals and Capital Litigation Division. In the Chief Counsel role, Mr. Cattani supervised all felony appeals for the State of Arizona and federal habeas proceedings in federal courts. He also oversaw capital post-conviction proceedings in Arizona trial courts.

Prior to joining the Attorney General’s Office, Mr. Cattani worked at the law offices of Beus, Gilbert & Morrill (1989-1991) and Jennings, Strouss & Salmon (1986-1989). His areas of practice at these firms included commercial litigation, personal injury litigation, estates and trusts, education law and eminent domain.

Mr. Cattani has nearly 30 years of experience in criminal, civil and appellate law. He has personally argued 85 cases in state and federal appeals courts, and has participated in more than 230 appeals – 10 of which he served as lead or second-chair counsel before the United States Supreme Court. Nationally-renowned as a post-conviction relief expert, Mr. Cattani has been invited to testify before the United States Senate and House of Representatives regarding federal habeas and capital litigation issues.

In addition to his extensive legal background, Mr. Cattani is well-versed in issues related to forensic science. He was Chairman of the Attorney General’s DNA Task Force (2005-2008), and currently serves on the statewide Forensic Science Advisory Committee. Mr. Cattani has worked with the Arizona Legislature to draft criminal statutes related to the death penalty and preservation of biological evidence. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation, as well as the Arizona Supreme Court’s Capital Case Oversight Committee.

An active member of his community, Mr. Cattani has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, coached baseball for handicapped and disadvantaged children and was a Chairman and Advisor to the Explorer Scouts program.

Mr. Cattani's work has been lauded. The National Association of Government Attorneys honored him with the Excellence in Capital Litigation Award (2010). Plus, the Arizona Attorney General's Office named him Attorney of the Year for the Criminal Division (2008), and gave him the Statewide Impact Award (2003).

Mr. Cattani graduated from University of California, Berkley School of Law (1986). He received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Brigham Young University (1982). He has been licensed to practice law in Arizona since 1986.

The Governor's appointment of Kent Cattani was made to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Ann Scott Timmer to the Arizona Supreme Court.

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